

SEP 28 2006

Application No.: 10/669,494
Docket No.: PE0688USNA

Page 5

REMARKS***Status of the Application***

Claims 1-10, 15, 37, 38, 48 and 54 are pending in the application. The pending claims are provisionally rejected under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over five co-pending applications. The pending claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The claims are amended to specify a *buffer composition* (rather than a *composition*) comprising an aqueous dispersion of a polydioxothiophene and at least one colloid-forming polymeric acid, and species thereof. The claim amendments do not constitute new matter because the amendments are supported in the specification at page 2, lines 25-31, page 13, line 31 to page 14, line 23, page 19, lines 7-12, Examples 11-21 and *passim*. The claims have also been amended to specify that the claimed buffer composition has a pH greater than about 3. This amendment has support in the specification at page 11, lines 26-30, page 13, lines 7-30, and Examples 7, 9, 16, 18, 19, 20, and 25. Therefore these amendments introduce no new matter.

The amendments are being made to maintain the claims as readable on a previously elected invention and otherwise to advance the prosecution.

Claims 1 and 37 are the independent claims. The dependent claims depend from and further limit their respective independent claims, and thus patentably define over the references as well.

Claim Rejections – Nonstatutory Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

As noted in the Office Action, these rejections are provisional since the references are all copending applications. Once claims have been allowed, and the rejections are no longer provisional, Applicants will address each rejection as appropriate.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 or, in the Alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103**EP '111**

The scope of the amended claims is essentially the same as that of the previous amendments. Accordingly, Applicants' previously filed remarks are equally pertinent here. Applicants restate their previous remarks and incorporate those remarks by reference to avoid the necessity of restating the full text in this paper.

EP '111 discloses an antistatic layer coating composition (page 6, line 9) used in the photographic film industry (page 6, lines 54-55; see also page 7, lines 7-12). Other uses in the photographic imaging industry are described at page 7, lines 15-19. The specific utility of the

Application No.: 10/669,494
Docket No.: PE0688USNA

Page 6

coating layer material, reducing or eliminating damage to photosensitive material from static charges, is set forth on page 7, lines 20-26.

The buffer compositions of the present claims are electrically conductive and facilitate the injection of holes from the anode into the electroluminescent polymer layer, and may be considered hole-injection or transport compositions or as part of a bilayer anode (Applicants' specification, page 1, lines 26-29). By claiming a *buffer composition* comprising a polydioxothiophene and a colloid-forming polymeric acid, there is an essential limitation not disclosed in EP '111, and Applicants respectfully submit that this is sufficient to overcome EP '111 as a section 102(b) anticipating reference. In addition, the buffer composition in the amended claims has a pH of at least about 3, an additional claim element not found in the reference. As to the alternative ground of rejection, there is nothing in the reference to suggest that the antistatic coating materials would be useful as a buffer composition for an OLED device. Nor is there anything taught or suggested in EP '111 to motivate one skilled in the art to modify the reference in any way to arrive at a buffer composition for OLEDs. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these alternative rejections be withdrawn.

Pickup, et al.

Pickup identifies PEDOT/PSS and PEDOT/Nafion® as having utility in supercapacitors or as fuel cell catalyst supports (page 24, § 3.3 and page 25, § 3.4). Pickup does not disclose a buffer composition comprising a polydioxothiophene and at least one colloid-forming polymeric acid wherein the composition has a pH of at least about 3. The present claims therefore recite elements not disclosed in Pickup.

Pickup neither teaches nor suggests that their disclosure, or the disclosure as modified in some manner, would result in OLED buffer compositions as claimed, or buffer compositions having the advantages enumerated in the application and recited in previously submitted remarks. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been rendered moot or overcome by the foregoing amendments and remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have questions about the content of this paper or the status of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Application No.: 10/669,494
Docket No.: PE0688USNA

Page 7

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lamming", with a horizontal line extending to the left.

JOHN H. LAMMING
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
Registration No.: 34,857
Telephone: (302) 992-5877
Facsimile: (302) 892-1026

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